

Printed March 1828

An Inaugural Essay
on Acute Hepatitis

For the degree of Doctor of Medicine
in the

University of Pennsylvania

by

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Philadelphia, Jan. 25th 1828.

Acute Hepatitis

This disease consists in an active inflammation of the liver, either involving its whole structure, or limited to its peritoneal covering; and hence must vary in severity according to its extent, duration, and the patient's constitution; consequently, the symptoms by which its presence is manifested will be different as the circumstances under which it exists.

From its early development, the importance of its functions, and the intimate sympathetic connexion which exist between it and the other principal viscera, as the brain, lungs, stomach &c. its derangement must necessarily

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exerts a wide and important influence
 upon nearly all the functions of the
 body. Thus, from hepatic derangement
 we have various and depressing affec-
 tions of the mind, as the consequence
 of its connexion with the brain through
 the all pervading influence of the ner-
 vous system; and reciprocally, we have
 abscesses of the liver, as the consequence
 of injuries done to the brain: we have
 dyspeptic and other affections of the
 stomach from functional derangement
 of the liver, and inflammation of the
 latter organ as the effect of gastric or
 enteric irritations: pulmonary inflam-
 mation and abscesses from hepatic
 derangements, and hepatitis as the re-
 sult of pneumonic or pleuritic inflam-
 mation, so that an inquiry into all the

Consequences which might follow, a co-
sist with the disease under consideration,
would greatly exceed both the object and
the necessary limits of this paper; hence
I shall confine my remarks to a concise
account of its symptoms, causes, and
treatment, without pretending to go into
an extended disquisition on its pathology,
or even therapeutical management, when
extensivity and variously complicated.

The better to arrive at this object,
I shall speak only of the acute form of
hepatitis, as in that state it is less usu-
ally complicated with the other and
remote affections, which are so frequent-
ly the associates of it, more chronic
character.

Acute hepatitis is very common-
ly ushered in by strong marks of

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pyrexial excitement, as chills or rigors,
flushes, hot skin, thirst, frequent &
corded pulse: at the same time there
is more or less fulness and tension of
the hypochondriac region, attended with
pain more or less acute, especially when
pressed upon, and this pain is very
frequently extended up to the top of
the shoulder, where it is sometimes
even more intolerable than in the re-
-gion of the liver itself.

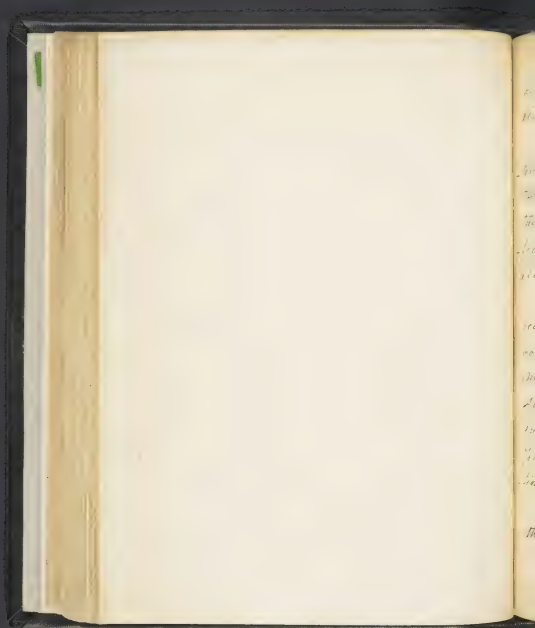
From the immediate connexion
of the liver with the stomach, there is
not unfrequently vomiting of bilious
matter, and its proximity to the di-
aphragm and lungs gives rise very
commonly to difficult respiration,
with a short and dry cough.

It sometimes happens, particularly

in women, but at the entrance
of the disease take place on the left
side, when this occurs, the left side is
generally affected.

The commencement the most
of the disease is insidious, attended by
great thirst, the tongue being white,
or coated with a yellowish fur; a
stitching sensation in passing the
urine, which is charged with bile; an
itching of the vulvina and skin; the
pulse hard, full, and strong; the bow-
els costive, though in some cases,
acute hepatitis is often attended from
the beginning with small frequent
urine discharges from the bowels.

As the disease advances the
patients becomes first difficult
in lying on either side, and when



in two days, and he was not on the
side of the bed.

The treatment in some cases in-
cludes the use of the bloodletting
this is believed to take place, when
the peritoneal coat of the liver is in-
flamed, and the disease extends itself
along that membrane.

In hot climates, where this disease
occurs most frequently, and where of
course the predisposing causes are
most abundant, its progress is rapid
suppuration ensuing in a few days,
and in some instances, without previous
pain or fever; there being a mixed ac-
tion of inflammation and congestion.

It is sometimes ushered in under
the form of Cholera morbus.

This disease like most others,

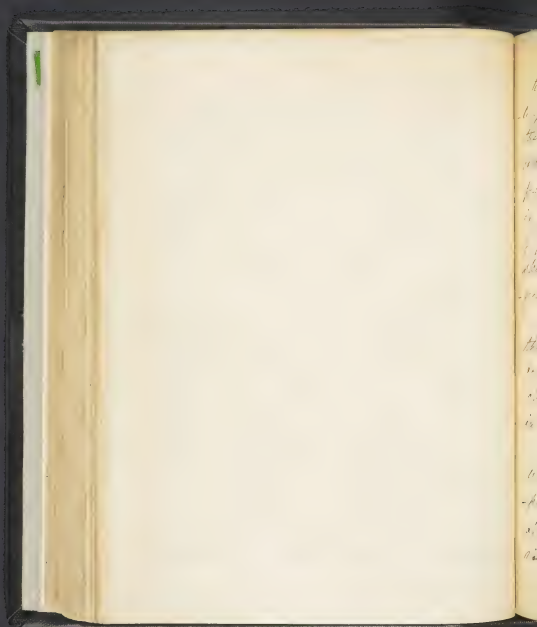
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has its anomalies.

Professor Chapman mentions cases where all the premonitory signs were wanting, and the disease was disguised under the form of pneumonia, or the head only was affected, or the kidneys, or the umbilicus, or the calf of the leg, or there was paralysis of the arms.

Thus, Hydatids is sometimes shrouded in obscurity, and erroneously calculated to deceive the casual practitioner.

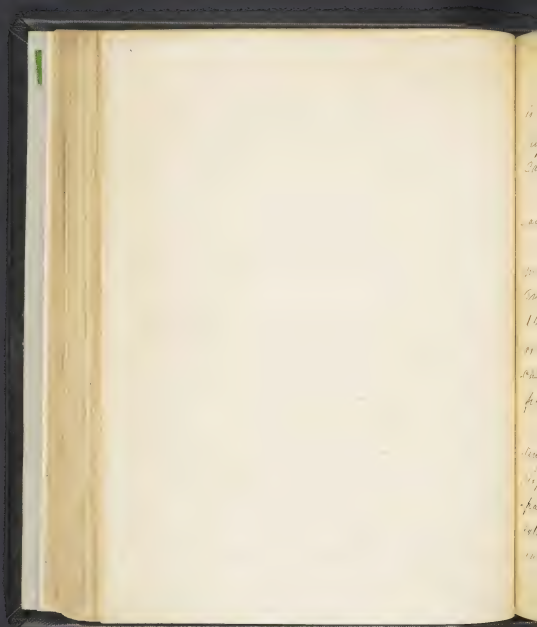
It was the opinion of Dr. Cullen that when the cancer surface ^{of the liver} was the part diseased, the lungs were likewise affected; when the under surface was affected, the abdominal contents suffered; when the peritoneal investment of the liver is inflamed



the patient experiences some lancina-
ting pains, with a corded pulse, and
the general aspect is at length changed;
even the inflammation extends to the
parachymatous structure, the pulse
is full and round, with a sensation
of fulness and weight in the feet, the
skin and eyes tinged of a yellow or suf-
-fused hue.

Other cases are liable to hepatitis,
though commoner in suæcet than in
the degenerate state, with it as usual;
children are more much exposed to it
in miasmatic districts.

The causes are excesses of
heat, cold, late, or too late inter-
-ference, intense heat, miasmata, and
the hepatic inflammation, excepting mild
violent rage, affections of the mind,

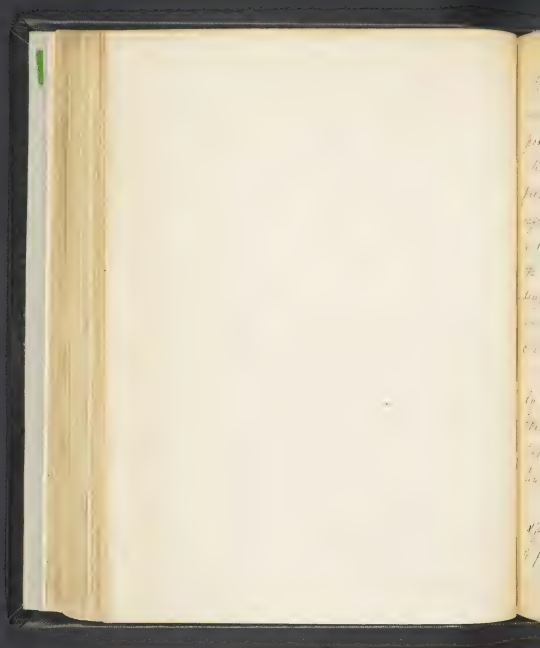


the ^{most} common use of mercury
is mentioned as Dr. Boerhaave of
Amsterdam, as one of the most frequent
causes.

In the diagnosis there is gene-
rally some difficulty.

The diseases in which it is
most liable to be confounded, are,
Pneumonia, inflammation, Gastritis,
Abscess in the parietes of the viscus
as it passes through the right impo-
-chondrium, Spasm of the gall ducts
from Calculi &c.

From the first it may be dis-
tinguished by the pain, cough and
expiration not being similar; in He-
-patitis, the pain is not so severe, and
extends to the stomach; the cough is ho-
arse and there is an expectoration of blood.



The indication is not difficult,
 a hepatic inflammation the most
 positive is in the right side, in the
 liver, in the right side in hepatic
 pressure on the right hypochondriac
 region separates the liver; there is also
 a redness & tenderness, some times
 the liver may be felt to have a red-
 dened sensation and depositing a solid
 and the focus of inflammation is
 common.

From Oedema it may be known
 by the extreme tenderness in the liver,
 the immediate injection & some may
 taken into the stomach, the small
 intestine &c.

It may be distinguished from
 Oedema of the face such as the Oedema
 of face and the intermitting character

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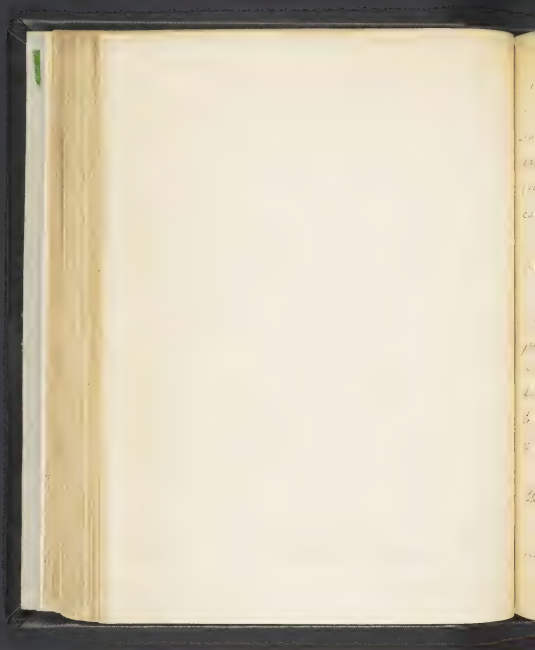
It is in the latter affection.

I in these visits the canal sometimes, or is not, and to see it, it may terminate either in resolution, suppuration, or progress in fluctuation or abscess.

If it does not end in resolution, it usually terminates in suppuration and then the issue of drainage depends much upon the situation of the abscess; if it is near externally or in the lower part of the neck, and the matter is not so abundant.

If the line is lower, or issues to some part of the sternal canal and discharges into it - the matter passes through the larynx, but is drawn out by respiration, - is dried up by the return.

It sometimes bursts into the trachea,



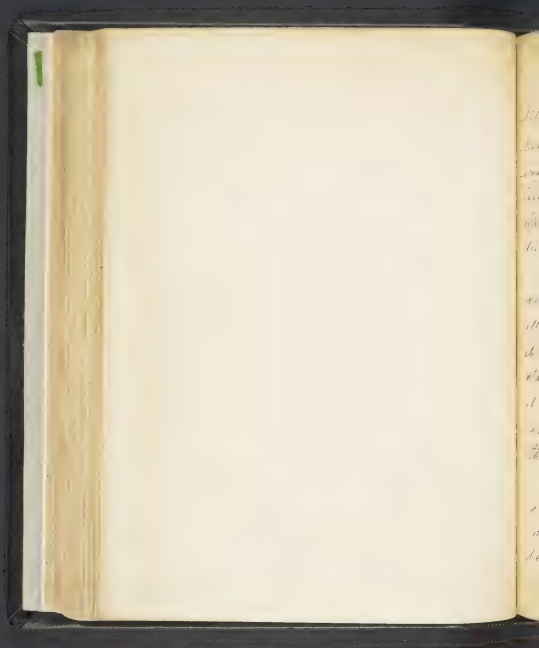
and the patient dies from septicæmia,
as the matter is disorganised & septico-
tation, though sometimes the abscess
will come to the surface and stings,
plus some the abscess can be cut into the
cavity of the abscess.

It is an extremely rare occurrence
in the human body in young people.

When this disease terminates by
resolution, there are critical discharges
from the nose, vomitus, etc. etc.,
and by profuse sweats, and a spontaneous
diuresis, or the infection is transferred
to the skin, and appears in the form
of Erysipelas.

Examinations of the lungs, prove
that the Lungs are seriously affected.

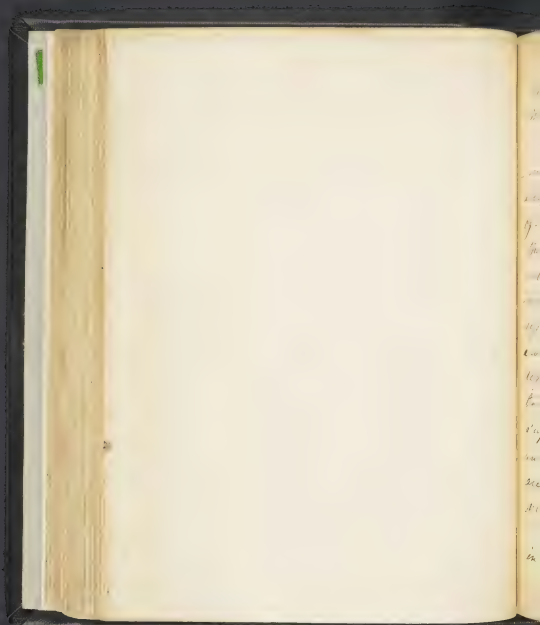
It has been found much more
often in young children, indicated as



ulcerated, & the great coat is
filling much, inflammation, & ne-
crotic adhesions to the neighbour-
ing parts absorb, and, finally, and lit-
tle by little, have all been found
upon inspection of these and were
kind of this kind.

In gnosis, but it will be
sufficient to say, that when limbs
affected with aphrodisiac reactions,
it is not surprising under these circum-
stances it is said, it occurs behind
it a distressing pain of 10 symptoms,
which sometimes continues to break
the patient the remainder of his life.

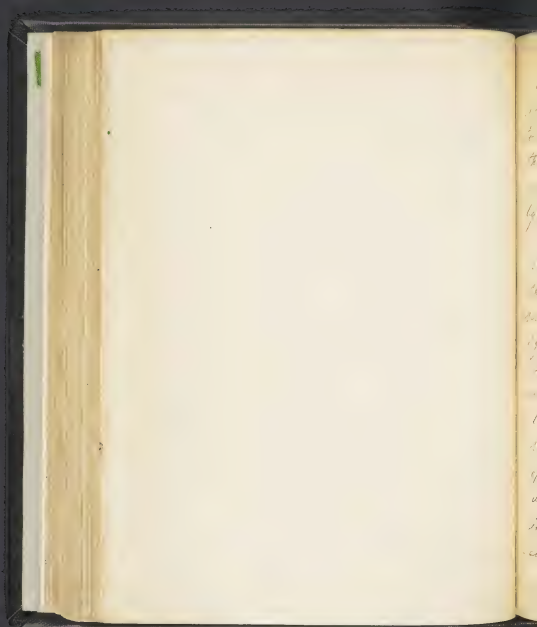
Most Pathologists agree that it
is a primary seat in the mucous
membrane of the stomach. This first
becomes irritated, and the irritation



in adults. In children, as in Cholera
morbus.

Treatment. During the incu-
pation stage it is not to give any
solid food for three, to five or six
days. If blood should be abstracted at
the first invasion, and if not removed
it is suicidal to make a similar
invasion in the system, it is better to
deplete, removing the quantity later
away by the severity of pain and the
degree of fever present. It is neglected
to bleed judiciously in this disease,
suppuration is likely to ensue. Emesis
and catharsis to the subject, however,
are important auxiliaries, and should
never be omitted.

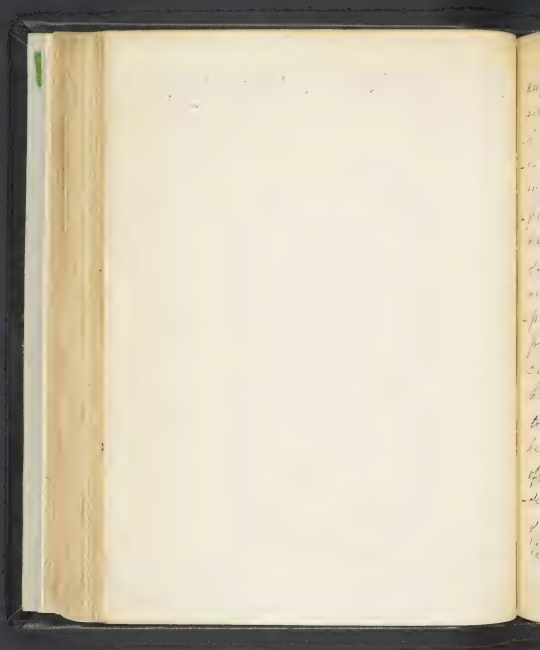
Negatives are now successful
in the early stages of Hepatitis.



The may again be a trip, combined with C. Corv. in sufficient quantity to concentrate towards the ^{10th} July; after this, canonic given in large doses at night, and continued off in the morning by means of Opium dose - continue it.

Canonic is sometimes given in small doses, with 15 or 20 grains before and then increased ~~to 30~~ in the morning.

As shown above Canonic irritant, 19 means 2 l. (10) in my last dose. (See also) 19 in the last dose has been useful in diminishing of the quantity of blood sent to the face through the nose & sinuses. In secretory function of the liver being impaired, many actions cannot be induced until this is restored; such may be more generally accomplished by a rigid -



before to the non-hereditary
already said bones, aimed at femoral
in the region of the bone, on the
in the region of the bone, on the
and a small amount of the anti-
phlogistic regimen, which the
has been usually found for the
disease, and the disease does
not yield, meaning I should be im-
proved with a view to produce
phlogism: in order to effect this
can be done in several ways. It is
best, perhaps, to use the
to abate its purgative effect it may
be combined with a small quantity
of ^{opium} and its operation may be much ef-
fected by the constant abstraction
of secretions, which may
be applied in the region of the bone.

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Salivation, in order to be effectual,
should be gradually induced and
kept up for some time. Dr Johnson
speaks very highly of the nitro-muri-
-atic acid bath, or sponging the whole
surface of the body with it, as a mode
of producing salivation, or as an ad-
-juvant to Mercury - the following is
the formula. ^{and} Nitric and muriatic,
aa one part, water two parts. of this
mixture take ℥j. to boiling water
four quarts.

To obviate the too violent effects
of Mercury, a solution of any of the neu-
-tral salts, or an infusion of Senna may
be given, every three or four days;
Suppuration sometimes takes place
in spite of all our efforts; when this
is the case, and the abscess points

externally, it must be opened, and the matter evacuated, after which the patient will be in a debilitated state, and will require tonics, with a mild and nutritious diet; the nitro-muriatic acid forms a most excellent tonic, and should not be neglected, especially where the secretory power is but imperfectly restored, and the longer continuance of Mercury would not be advisable.

